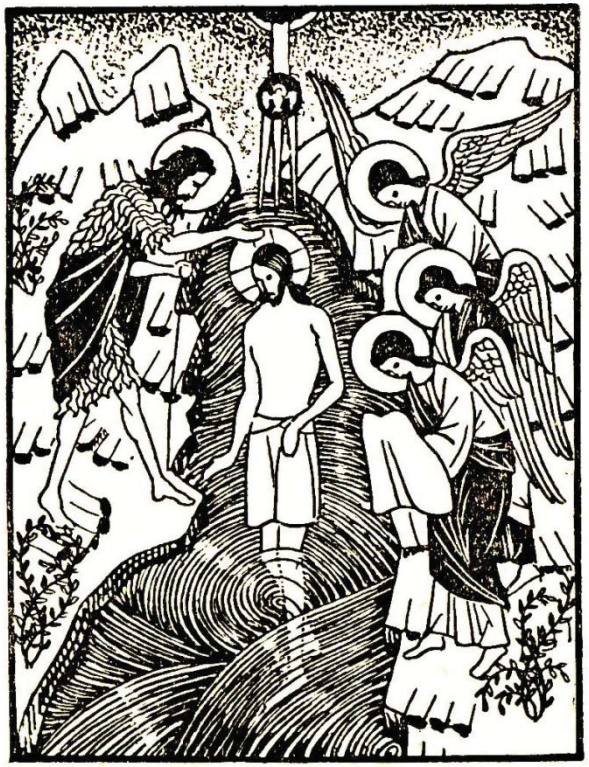
The Office of Royal Hours



For the Feast of the Theophany of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

Metropolitan Cantor Institute

Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

December 2018

This booklet contains a translation of the Hours made by the Inter-Eparchial Liturgical Commission of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church in the United States, as part of its work on the services of Great and Holy Week, and is based on the Ruthenian edition of the Slavonic *Časoslov* (Rome, 1950).

The proper hymns for January 5 were prepared by the Metropolitan Cantor Institute, and are subject to revision. Music can be found on the Institute website at http://mci.archpitt.org.

The image on the cover is from the Ruthenian *Časoslov* (Rome, 1950).

Foreword

In the Byzantine tradition, December 24 (the vigil of Christmas) and January 5 (the vigil of Theophany) are days of strict fasting. On these days a special form of the daytime Hours is celebrated, with additional hymns and readings.

These services are called the **Royal Hours**, and are ordinarily celebrated together at some convenient time. (The Typikon prescribes that they be celebrated at 8 AM.) The service of Typika, which is served on days when the Divine Liturgy cannot be celebrated, is added at the end.

Note that if December 24 or January 5 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the fast and the celebration of the Royal Hours are moved to the preceding Friday, since Saturday and Sunday are never days of fasting in the Byzantine tradition.

Celebrating the Royal Hours

This book assumes a celebration in church, with a priest and deacon. If there are concelebrating priests, the celebrant should lead the first hour. The third, sixth, and ninth hours may each be led by a concelebrating priest. The priest leading each hour proclaims the holy Gospel.

If no priest is present, then the Royal Hours may be led by a deacon or other person (marked below as “leader”). All parts proper to the priest and deacon are omitted. The Gospel book should be placed on an analogion in the middle of the church before the service begins, and the Gospel is read by the leader in a normal speaking voice, facing East (toward the sanctuary).

If the Hours are celebrated separately, then each is preceded by the Beginning Prayers and ends with a dismissal. The Gospel is NOT enthroned in the nave, but brought from the holy table for each reading, as in the Divine Liturgy.

Notes

Some liturgical books indicate that the hymns in each hour following the pre-festive troparion and the theotokion of the Hour are troparia. Here we have followed those books which treat them as stichera, since this is more natural to our singing tradition.

Also, the repetitions of these hymns by two choirs have been omitted, and the two psalm verses that divide the repetitions have been combined.

Otherwise, the service as given here is complete and unabridged.

Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

It is truly proper to glorify you, O Theotokos, * the ever-blessed, immaculate, and the mother of our God. * More honorable than the cherubim, * and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim; * who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, * you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

The Dismissal

If a priest leads the Royal Hours, they conclude as follows:

Priest: Glory to you, O Christ God, our hope, glory to you.

Response: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Give the blessing.

Priest: May Christ our true God have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; and of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; of our holy *the patron[s] [patroness] of this church*; of the holy *(Name/s of the saint/s whose day it is);* and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response: Amen.

The priest and deacon return to the altar through the southern door.

If there is no priest, the Royal Hours conclude as follows:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Come, children, and hear me
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.

Who is he who longs for life and many days,
to enjoy his prosperity?

Then keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.

Turn aside from evil and do good;
seek and strive after peace.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.

The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal.

The just cried out and the Lord heard them,
and rescued them from all their distress.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Many are the trials of the just,
but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

He will keep guard over all their bones,
not one of their bones shall be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.

The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.

The Beginning Prayers

An analogion is placed before the holy doors so that the priest can read the holy gospel facing the faithful. The priest vests in dark epitrachilion and phelonion, and the deacon vests in the sticharion and orarion. The deacon opens the holy doors. The priest takes the holy gospel from the holy table and carries it in procession to the analogion, where he places it for the reading of the four Gospels. The deacon precedes him carrying a candle. Then the priest stands before the holy doors, facing east, with the deacon at his right, and begins:

If a priest leads the service:

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

If other than a priest:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen

Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
everywhere present and filling all things,
Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life,
come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain,
and save our souls, O gracious One.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities
for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

If a priest leads the service:

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Otherwise:

All: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Now turn to the appropriate Hour:

First Hour	page 3
Third Hour	page 12
Sixth Hour	page 21
Ninth Hour	page 31

Response: One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and forever. *(three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Psalm 33

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;

In the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called, the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped,
around those who revere him, to rescue them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

Revere the Lord, you his saints.
They lack nothing, those who revere him.

the Father; through whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven and was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried. He rose on the third day according to the scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he is coming again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life, who proceeds from the Father. Together with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified; he spoke through the prophets. In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I profess one baptism for the remission of sins. I expect the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Remit, pardon, and forgive our transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in deed and in word, with knowledge and in ignorance, in thought and in desire, by night and by day, forgive them all, O God, for you are good and love us all.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

If a priest leads the service:

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Otherwise:

All: Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 4. Today the Lord appears in the Jordan's streams * and cries out to John: * Do not be afraid to baptize me, * for I have come to save Adam, the first created.

Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

Priest or Leader: Most holy Trinity, Consubstantial Power, Indivisible Kingdom, Cause of all good things, look favorably upon me, a sinner, at this present hour. Take away all the defilement of my mind and enlighten my understanding that I may always praise, glorify, and say:

The First Hour

Come, let us worship our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship Christ our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and ***our*** God. *(bow)*

As the psalms are chanted, the celebrant performs a full incensation of the church in this order: the holy gospel book from all four sides; the holy table and the apsidal image; then, going through the holy doors, the icon screen, the interior of the church, any concelebrating clergy, the faithful, the major icons of our Lord and the Theotokos, and the front of the holy table. The deacon precedes the celebrant carrying a candle. The celebrant and deacon return to the sanctuary after the incensation.

Psalm 5

To my words give ear, O Lord,
give heed to my groaning.

Attend to the sound of my cries,
my King and my God.

It is you whom I invoke, O Lord.
In the morning you hear me.

In the morning I offer you my prayer,
watching and waiting.

You are no God who loves evil;
no sinner is your guest.

The boastful shall not stand their ground
before your face.

You hate all who do evil;
you destroy all who lie.

The deceitful and bloodthirsty man
the Lord detests.

But I through the greatness of your love
will enter your house;

I will bow down before your holy temple in awe.
Lead me, O Lord, in your justice;
because of my enemies direct my way in your sight.

No truth can be found in their mouths,
their hearts are vanity.

Their throats are gaping graves,
with their tongues they flatter.

Condemn them, O God;
let them fall in their designs.

Drive them out for their many offenses,
for they have defied you.

Let all those you protect be glad and rejoice forever
and you shall dwell in them.
They who love your name shall rejoice in you.

For you will bless the just, O Lord.
You crown us with favor as with a shield.

Psalm 22

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me;
he restores my soul.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

for your reward will be great in heaven.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Remember us, O Lord,
when you come in your kingdom.

Remember us, O Master,
when you come in your kingdom.

Remember us, O Holy One,
when you come in your kingdom.

The heavenly choir praises you and says,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts;
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

The heavenly choir praises you and says,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts;
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

The choir of holy angels and archangels, with all the heavenly
powers, praises you and says,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts;
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Now and ever
and forever. Amen.

The Symbol of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, the only-begotten, born of the Father before all ages. Light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in essence with

O only-begotten Son and Word of God, who, being immortal, deigned for our salvation to become incarnate of the holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, and became man without change; you were also crucified, O Christ our God, and by death have trampled Death, being One of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us.

The Beatitudes

In your kingdom, remember us, O Lord,
when you come in your kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

Rejoice and be glad,

You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Your mercy, O Lord, shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
forever and ever.

Psalm 26

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

When evil-doers draw near to devour my flesh,
it is they, my enemies and foes, who stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me
my heart would not fear.

Though war break out against me,
even then would I trust.

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life,

to savor the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple.

For there he keeps me safe in his tent
in the day of evil.

He hides me in the shelter of his tent,
on a rock he sets me safe.

And now my head shall be raised
above my foes who surround me

and I shall offer within his tent
a sacrifice of joy.

I will sing and make music for the Lord.
O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken:
"Seek his face."

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help.

Do not abandon or forsake me,
O God my help!

Though father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will receive me.

Instruct me, Lord, in your way;
on an even path lead me.

When they lie in ambush protect me
from my enemy's greed.

False witnesses rise against me,
breathing out fury.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.

Hope in the Lord, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 145

Praise the Lord, O my soul.
I will praise the Lord all my life.
I will make music to my God while I live.

Put no trust in princes,
in mortal men in whom there is no help.

Take their breath, they return to clay
and their plans that day come to nothing.

He is happy who is helped by Jacob's God,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,

who alone made heaven and earth,
the seas and all they contain.

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,

the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,

the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign forever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Now and ever
and forever. Amen.

And then the Hymn of the Incarnation:

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.

As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him;

for he knows of what we are made,
he remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass;
he flowers like the flower of the field;

the wind blows and he is gone
and his place never sees him again.

But the love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;

his justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth,
when they remember his commands and do them.

The Lord has set his throne in heaven
and his kingdom is ruling over all.

Bless the Lord, all his angels,
mighty in power, fulfilling his word,
who heed the voice of his word.

Bless the Lord, all his hosts,
his servants who do his will.

Bless the Lord, all his works,
in every place where he rules.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!
and all my being, bless his holy name.

Blessed are you, O Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God! *(3 times, with a bow each time)*

Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Tone 4. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Troparion, Tone 4. After Elijah had been taken up, * the River Jordan was parted in two by Elisha's mantle; * and a dry path was opened in the waters * as an image of true baptism * by which we pass beyond this fleeting life. * Christ appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

Tone 4. Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Theotokion, Tone 4. What shall we call you, O full of grace? * A heaven, for you have borne the Sun of Justice? *A paradise, for you have brought forth the Flower of immortality? * A virgin, for you have remained undefiled? * A mother, holding in her holy arms the Son who is God of all? * Intercede with him for the salvation of our souls.

During the stichera, the deacon incenses the holy gospel from the four sides, the icon screen and the people, then returns to the sanctuary.

Stichera, Tone 8. Today the nature of the waters is sanctified, * and the Jordan is parted in two; * it holds back the streams of its own waters, * seeing the Master being bathed. *(twice)*

Therefore I think of you, from the country of Jordan and Mount Hermon. The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and trembled.

You have gone down into the river as a man, O Christ our King, * and in your goodness, you hasten to receive * the baptism of a servant at the hands of the Forerunner * for the sake of our sins, * O good God and Lover of us all.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

A herald's voice cries out in the desert: * Make ready the way of the Lord! * And you have come, O Christ, taking the form of a servant. * You, the only Sinless One, ask to be baptized. * The waters see you and tremble; * the Forerunner is filled with awe and cries aloud: * How shall the lampstand illumine the light? * How shall the servant lay his hand upon the Master? * O Savior, who take away the sins of the world, * sanctify both me and the waters.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon, Tone 4. The Lord thundered in the heavens; the Most High let his voice be heard.
Verse. I will love you, O Lord, my strength; the Lord is my rock.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Isaiah 35:1-10)*

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Acts 13:25-33)*

The priest who will read the Gospel and the deacon come to the analogion through the holy doors for the reading of the gospel.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

Typika

Come, let us worship our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship Christ our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God. *(bow)*

Psalm 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all my being, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,

who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion,

who fills your life with good things,
renewing your youth like an eagle's.

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgment for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry forever.

He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.

thief and destroyed death by death. Now forgive the trespasses that we your servants have committed, unworthy sinners that we are. We have sinned indeed and transgressed your law. We are unworthy even to lift up our eyes to heaven, for we have abandoned the path of your righteousness and pursued the desires of our hearts.

But now we implore your immense goodness: Spare us, O Lord, in the multitude of your mercies, save us for the sake of your most holy name. Our days were spent in vanity; wrest us from the hands of our enemy and forgive our sins. Subdue in us the cravings of our flesh, so that, after putting off the old self, we may put on the new and live for you, our Master and Benefactor; and that, obeying your commandments, we may reach eternal repose in the place where all the blessed abide. For you are truly joy and delight to those who love you, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you, with your eternal Father, and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Continue with the Typika, if desired.

If the Typika are not celebrated, the service concludes with the dismissal on page 49.

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: *(reads Matthew 3:1-6)*

Response: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

The priest and deacon return to the sanctuary. Then the faithful chant the following verses (Ps. 118:133-135, 70:8):

Guide my footsteps according to your promise,
and let no iniquity rule over me.
Redeem me from man's oppression and I shall keep your precepts.
Let your face shine on your servant and teach me your decrees.
My mouth is filled with your praise, O Lord,
that I may sing your glory all the day long.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities
for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

If a priest leads the service:

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Otherwise:

All: Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 4. Today the Lord appears in the Jordan's streams * and cries out to John: * Do not be afraid to baptize me, * for I have come to save Adam, the first created.

Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

Priest or Leader: O good God, in all times and places you are worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deem, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; surround us with your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory. For you are blessed forever and ever**.**

Response: Amen.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

More honorable than the cherubim,
and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim;
who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word,
you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

Priest or Leader: O good God, in all times and places you are worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deem, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; surround us with your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory. For you are blessed forever and ever**.**

Response: Amen.

Lord have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

More honorable than the cherubim,
and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim;
who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word,
you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

If a priest leads the service:

All: Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

Priest: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may He cause His countenance to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Otherwise:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Priest or Leader: Master Lord Jesus Christ, our God, you patiently endured our sins and led us to this very hour at which you were hung upon the life-giving wood. You opened a way to paradise for the penitent

For your name's sake, do not deliver us up forever,
or make void your covenant.
Do not take away your mercy from us,
for the sake of Abraham, your beloved, Isaac your servant,
and Israel your holy one.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities
for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

If a priest leads the service:

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Otherwise:

All: Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 4. Today the Lord appears in the Jordan's streams * and cries out to John: * Do not be afraid to baptize me, * for I have come to save Adam, the first created.

Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

If a priest leads the service:

All: Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

Priest: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may He cause His countenance to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Otherwise:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Priest or Leader: O Christ, you are the true light, who enlightens and sanctifies everyone coming into the world. Sign us with the light of your face, that, walking in it, we may see the light of your unapproachable glory. Direct our steps in the observance of your commands, through the prayers of your most pure Mother and of all your saints.

Response: Amen.

If the Third Hour does not follow immediately, the service concludes with the dismissal on page 49.

The Third Hour

Come, let us worship our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship Christ our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God. *(bow)*

Psalm 28

Bring to the Lord, you sons of God;
bring to the Lord glory and honor;

give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

The voice of the Lord over the waters;
the God of glory thunders; the Lord over many waters.

The voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendor.

The Lord's voice shattering the cedars,
the Lord shatters the cedars of Lebanon;

he makes Lebanon leap like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The Lord's voice
flashes flames of fire.

The Lord's voice shaking the wilderness,
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh;

the Lord's voice rending the oak tree
and stripping the forest bare.

In his temple they all cry: "Glory!"
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king forever.

The Lord will give strength to his people;

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Isaiah 49:8-15)*

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to Titus.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7)*

The priest who will read the Gospel and the deacon come to the analogion through the holy doors for the reading of the gospel.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: *(reads Matthew 3:13-17)*

Response: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

After the Gospel has been read, the priest takes the holy gospel from the analogion and, proceeding with the deacon, returns it to the holy table, going through the holy doors. The deacon closes the holy doors, and the priest(s) may remove the phelonion.

Then the faithful chant the following verses (Daniel 3:34-35):

awe and rejoicing in their choirs. * United with them, we bow down before you: * Save us, O Lord our God.

> Therefore I think of you, from the country of Jordan and Mount Hermon. The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and trembled.

Tone 2. When he saw the Lord of Glory drawing near to him, * the Forerunner cried aloud at the sight: * Behold, here comes the Savior who lifts the world from corruption! * Behold, the One who delivers us from affliction! * Behold, the One who has come upon earth, born of a spotless Virgin, * to grant us the remission of sins in his love! * From the slaves that we are, he makes us sons of God! * He makes mankind arise from the darkness * in order to illuminate it through his divine Baptism! * Come, then, together let us glorify him * with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

> Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Tone 5. With your hand, you have touched the head of the Master! * And with that hand, you have shown him to us as our Savior. * O Baptist, stretch forth that hand out before him in prayer on our behalf, * for you have great boldness in his presence. * For he bore witness to you as the greatest of the prophets. * With your eyes you saw the Holy Spirit * descend upon him in the form of a dove. * Lift those same eyes to him, O Baptist, * that he might be merciful to us. * Come and stand among us, *(prostration)* * come and stand among us, *(prostration)* * come and stand among us, *(prostration)* * setting the seal upon our hymns and beginning our feast!

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon, Tone 3. The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?
Verse. The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink?

the Lord will bless his people with peace.

Psalm 41

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God.

My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life;
when can I enter and see the face of God?

My tears have become my bread, by night, by day,
as I hear it said all the day long: "Where is your God?"

These things will I remember as I pour out my soul:
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd into the house of God,

amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,
the throng wild with joy.

Why are you cast down, my soul,
why groan within me?

Hope in God; I shall praise him still,
my savior and my God.

My soul is cast down within me as I think of you,
from the country of Jordan and Mount Hermon,
from the Hill of Mizar.

Deep is calling on deep, in the roar of waters;
your torrents and all your waves swept over me.

By day the Lord will send his loving kindness;
by night I shall sing to him, praise the God of my life.

I shall say to God, my rock: "Why have your forgotten me?
Why do I go mourning oppressed by the foe?"

With cries that pierce me to the heart, my enemies revile me,
saying to me all day long: "Where is your God?"

Why are you cast down, my soul,

why groan within me?

Hope in God; I shall praise him still,
my savior and my God.

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offense.

O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence
and be without reproach when you judge.

O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

Sprinkle me with hyssop, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,
that the bones you have crushed may thrill.

From my sins turn away your face
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence
nor deprive me of your Holy Spirit.

Abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me.

O give your strength to your servant
and save your handmaid's child.

Show me the sign of your favor that my foes may see to their shame
that you console me and give me your help.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

And then, three times with a bow each time:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God!

Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Tone 4. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Troparion, Tone 4. After Elijah had been taken up, * the River Jordan was parted in two by Elisha's mantle; * and a dry path was opened in the waters * as an image of true baptism * by which we pass beyond this fleeting life. * Christ appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

Tone 4. Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Theotokion, Tone 4. For the sake of all you were born of the Virgin, * and you endured the cross, O Good One. * You conquered death by death, and through your resurrection * you revealed yourself as God. * Do not disdain those whom you have created with your own hands, * but show forth your loving-kindness, O Merciful One. * Accept the intercession which the Theotokos makes in our behalf. * O our Savior, save a despairing people.

During the stichera, the deacon incenses the holy gospel from the four sides, the icon screen and the people.

Stichera, Tone 7. It is a strange wonder to see the Creator of the heavens and earth * standing naked in the river, * waiting like a servant to receive baptism from a servant for our salvation. * The angels were filled with

Preserve my life, for I am faithful;
save the servant who trusts in you.

You are my God, have mercy on me, Lord,
for I cry to you all the day long.

Give joy to your servant, O Lord,
for to you I lift up my soul.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice.

In the day of distress I shall call
and surely you will reply.

Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord;
nor work to compare with yours.

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord.

For you are great and do marvelous deeds,
you who alone are God.

Show me, Lord, your way so that I may walk in your truth.
Guide my heart to fear your name.

I shall praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart
and glorify your name forever;

For your love to me has been great:
you have saved me from the depths of the grave.

The proud have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life;
to you they pay no heed.

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervor sustain me;

That I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

Deliver me from blood-guilt, O God, my saving God,
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would refuse;

My sacrifice, a contrite spirit,
a contrite, humbled heart you will not spurn.

In your goodness, O Lord, show favor to Zion;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,
burnt offerings wholly consumed;
then you will be offered young bulls on your altar.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

And then, three times with a bow each time:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God!

Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Tone 4. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Troparion, Tone 4. After Elijah had been taken up, * the River Jordan was parted in two by Elisha's mantle; * and a dry path was opened in the waters * as an image of true baptism * by which we pass beyond this fleeting life. * Christ appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

Tone 4. Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Theotokion, Tone 4. O Theotokos, you are the true vine laden with the Fruit of life; * therefore, we implore you, O Lady, * to intercede together with the apostles and all the saints * that we may obtain mercy for our souls.

During the stichera, the deacon incenses the holy gospel from the four sides, the icon screen and the people.

Stichera, Tone 8. The hand of the Forerunner and Baptist, John, * the prophet honored above all former prophets, * trembled when he saw the Lamb of God * who takes away the sin of the world. * Seized with anguish, he cried out: * I do not dare to touch your head, O Word! * O compassionate Lord, you yourself are able to sanctify and enlighten me! * For you, O Lord, are the life, the light, and the peace of the world!

Therefore I think of you, from the country of Jordan and Mount Hermon. The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and trembled.

Tone 4. Today, the Trinity, our God, * has revealed Itself indivisibly to us: * The Father bears his clear witness to his Son; * the Spirit comes down from heaven in the form of a dove; * the Son bows his spotless head before the Baptist; * being baptized, the Lover of Mankind frees mankind from slavery.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Tone 5. Lord, you have come to the Jordan in the flesh to be baptized as a man * in order to save our souls, which had gone astray, * and to save us from the cunning and snares of the dragon, * and the Holy Spirit descended upon you in the form of a dove. * Take up your dwelling in our souls forever, * O compassionate Lord and Lover of us all!

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

With their hands they cannot feel;
with their feet they cannot walk.
No sound comes from their throats.

Their makers will come to be like them
and so will all who trust in them.

Sons of Israel, trust in the Lord;
he is their help and their shield.

Sons of Aaron, trust in the Lord;
he is their help and their shield.

You who fear him, trust in the Lord;
he is their help and their shield.

He remembers us, and he will bless us;
he will bless the sons of Israel.
(He will bless the sons of Aaron.)

The Lord will bless those who fear him,
the little no less than the great:

to you may the Lord grant increase,
to you and all your children.

May you be blessed by the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

The heavens belong to the Lord
but the earth he has given to men.

The dead shall not praise the Lord,
nor those who go down into the silence.

But we who live bless the Lord
now and forever.

Psalm 85

Turn your ear, O Lord, and give answer
for I am poor and needy.

Psalm 113

When Israel came forth from Egypt,
  Jacob's sons from an alien people

Judah became the Lord's temple,
  Israel became his kingdom.

The sea saw and fled; Jordan was turned back.
  The mountains leapt like rams
  and the hills like yearling sheep.

Why is it, O sea, that you fled;
  O Jordan, that you turned back?

Mountains, that you leapt like rams;
  hills, like yearling sheep?

Tremble, O earth, before the Lord,
  in the presence of the God of Jacob,

who turns the rock into a pool
  and flint into a spring of water.

Not to us, Lord, not to us,
  but to your name give the glory

for the sake of your love and your truth,
  lest the heathen say: "Where is their God?"

But our God is in the heavens;
  he does whatever he wills.

Their idols are silver and gold,
  the work of human hands.

They have mouths but they cannot speak;
  they have eyes but they cannot see;

they have ears but they cannot hear;
  they have nostrils but they cannot smell.

Prokeimenon, Tone 6. The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and trembled.
Verse. With all my voice I cried to the Lord; I cried aloud to God and he heard me.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Isaiah 1:16-20)*

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Acts 19:1-8)*

The priest who will read the Gospel and the deacon come to the analogion through the holy doors for the reading of the gospel.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: *(reads Mark 1:1-8)*

Response: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

The celebrant and deacon return to the sanctuary. Then the faithful

chant the following verses (Ps. 67:20-21):

May the Lord God be blessed;
may the Lord be blessed day after day.
The God of our salvation will prosper us;
this God of ours is a God who saves.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities
for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

If a priest leads the service:

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Otherwise:

All: Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 4. Today the Lord appears in the Jordan's streams * and cries out to John: * Do not be afraid to baptize me, * for I have come to save Adam, the first created.

The Ninth Hour

Come, let us worship our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship Christ our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ,
the King and our God. *(bow)*

As the psalms are chanted, the celebrant performs a full incensation of the church in this order: the holy gospel book from all four sides; the holy table and the apsidal image; then, going through the holy doors, the icon screen, the interior of the church, any concelebrating clergy, the faithful, the major icons of our Lord and the Theotokos, and the front of the holy table. The deacon precedes the celebrant carrying a candle. The celebrant and deacon return to the sanctuary after the incensation.

Psalm 92

The Lord reigns, he is clothed in majesty;
robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

The world he made firm, not to be moved;
your throne has stood from of old.

You are, O Lord,
from all eternity.

The rivers have lifted up, O Lord,
the rivers have lifted up their voice;
the rivers will lift up their waves.

Greater than the roar of mighty waters,
more glorious than the surgings of the sea,
the Lord is glorious on high.

Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed;
holiness is fitting to your house, O Lord,
until the end of time.

If a priest leads the service:

All: Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord

Priest: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may He cause His countenance to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Otherwise:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Priest or Leader: God and Lord of Powers and Maker of all creation, through your compassion beyond our understanding, you sent down your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our race. Through his honorable cross he canceled the debt of our sins and triumphed over the powers and masters of darkness.

Now, O loving Master, accept from us sinners these prayers of thanksgiving and petition, and preserve us from any deadly fall in the darkness and against every visible and invisible enemy who may seek our harm. Pierce our bodies with fear of you, and let not our souls fall into evil words or thoughts, but, instead, wound them with love for you so that, looking upon you at all times and guided by the light that emanates from you, we may contemplate the unapproachable eternal light. May we ever address our profession and thanksgiving to you, O eternal Father, to your only-begotten Son, and to your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

If the Ninth Hour does not follow immediately, the service concludes with the dismissal on page 49.

Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

Priest or Leader: O good God, in all times and places you are worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deem, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; surround us with your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory. For you are blessed forever and ever.

Response: Amen.

Lord have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

More honorable than the cherubim,
and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim;
who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word,
you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

If a priest leads the service:

All: Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord

Priest: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may He cause His countenance to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Otherwise:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Priest or Leader: Master and God: Almighty Father, only-begotten Son, Lord Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit, one divinity and one might, have

mercy on me, a sinner, and save me, your unworthy servant, according to the ways of your wisdom. For you are blessed forever and ever.

Response: Amen.

If the Sixth Hour does not follow immediately, the service concludes with the dismissal on page 49.

our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

If a priest leads the service:

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Otherwise:

All: Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 4. Today the Lord appears in the Jordan's streams * and cries out to John: * Do not be afraid to baptize me, * for I have come to save Adam, the first created.

Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

Priest or Leader: O good God, in all times and places you are worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deem, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; surround us with your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory. For you are blessed forever and ever.

Response: Amen.

Lord have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

More honorable than the cherubim,
and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim;
who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word,
you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

Response: And to your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: *(reads Mark 1:9-15)*

Response: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

The celebrant and deacon return to the sanctuary. Then the faithful chant the following verses (Ps. 78:8-9)

Let your compassion hasten to meet us;
we are left in the depths of distress.
O God our savior, come to our help.
Come for the sake of the glory of your name.
O Lord our God, forgive us our sins;
rescue us for the sake of your name.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities
for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day

The Sixth Hour

Come, let us worship our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship Christ our King and God. *(bow)*
Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ,
the King and our God. *(bow)*

Psalm 73

Why, O God, have you cast us off forever?
Why does your anger smolder against the sheep of your pasture?

Remember your flock which you acquired long ago,
the tribe you redeemed to be your own possession,
the mountain of Zion where you made your dwelling.

Turn your steps to these places that are utterly ruined!
The enemy has laid waste the whole of the sanctuary.

Your foes have made uproar in your house of prayer:
they have set up their emblems, their foreign emblems,
high above the entrance to the sanctuary.

Their axes have battered the wood of its doors.
They have struck together with hatchet and pickax.

O God, they have set your sanctuary on fire;
they have razed and profaned the place where you dwell.

They said in their hearts: “Let us utterly crush them;
let us burn every shrine of God in the land.”

There is no sign from God, nor have we a prophet,
we have no one to tell us how long it will last.

How long, O God, is the enemy to scoff?
Is the foe to insult your name forever?

Why, O Lord, do you hold back your hand?
Why do you keep your right hand hidden?

Yet God is our king from all ages.

He has accomplished salvation in the middle of the earth.

It was you who divided the sea by your might,
who shattered the heads of the monsters in the sea.

It was you who crushed Leviathan's heads
and gave him as food to the untamed beasts.

It was you opened springs and torrents;
it was you who dried up ever-flowing rivers.

Yours is the day and yours is the night.
It was you who appointed the light and the sun;

it was you who fixed the bounds of the earth:
you who made both summer and winter.

Remember this, Lord, and see the enemy scoffing;
a senseless people insults your name.

Do not give Israel, your dove, to the hawk
nor forget the life of your poor ones forever.

Remember your covenant; every cave in the land
is a place where violence makes its home.

Do not let the oppressed return disappointed;
let the poor and the needy bless your name.

Arise, O God, and defend your cause!
Remember how the senseless revile you all the day.

Do not forget the clamor of your foes,
the daily increasing uproar of your foes.

Psalm 76

I cry aloud to God,
cry aloud to God that he may hear me.

In the day of my distress I sought the Lord.
My hands were raised at night without ceasing;

trembling * before his extreme condescension! * I am not accustomed to washing him who is already pure; * I have never learned to cleanse the Sinless One, * but rather purify stained vessels. * Christ, who has come to be baptized in me, * teaches me to burn away the thorns of sin. * John, the voice of the Word, bears witness with me and cries out: * Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! * O faithful, let us cry aloud to him: * O God, who are made manifest for our salvation: glory to you!

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon, Tone 4. Your way led through the sea, your path through the mighty waters.
Verse. Your thunder rolled round the sky

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Isaiah 12:3-6)*

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Romans.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: *(reads Romans 6:3-11)*

The priest who will read the Gospel and the deacon come to the analogion through the holy doors for the reading of the gospel.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all!

Troparion, Tone 4. After Elijah had been taken up, * the River Jordan was parted in two by Elisha's mantle; * and a dry path was opened in the waters * as an image of true baptism * by which we pass beyond this fleeting life. * Christ appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

Tone 4. Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Theotokion, Tone 4. Since we have no one in whom to confide * because of our many sins, O Virgin Theotokos,* intercede for us with the one who was born of you; * for a mother's prayer is a powerful means for obtaining the Master's favor. * You are most worthy of veneration, * so do not turn away from the pleading of us sinners; * for the one who willed to suffer for our sake is full of mercy, * and his power is sufficient to save us.

During the stichera, the deacon incenses the holy gospel from the four sides, the icon screen and the people.

Stichera, Tone 8. The Lord spoke to John: * Come, O Prophet, and baptize me who created you, * for I enlighten all men by grace and cleanse them! * Touch my divine head and do not hesitate. * O Prophet, give in for now. * We must do this if we could fulfill all God's demands: * Do not hold back, * for I am eager to slay the enemy hidden in the waters, the prince of darkness, * that I may now deliver the whole world from his snares, * granting it eternal life in my love!

Therefore I think of you, from the country of Jordan and Mount Hermon. The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and trembled.

Tone 6. Today the prophecy of the psalms comes to its fulfillment: * The sea fled at the sight; * the Jordan turned back on its course before the face of the Lord, * before the face of the God of Jacob, * who comes to seek baptism from a servant, * so that, washed clean from the defilement of idolatry, * our souls might be illumined in him.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Tone 5. Why is it, O Jordan, that you turn back your waters? * Why do you stop your streams and not flow upon your normal course? * And he replies: I cannot endure the consuming Fire! * I am overcome with

my soul refused to be consoled.

I remembered my God and I groaned.
I pondered and my spirit fainted.

You withheld sleep from my eyes.
I was troubled, I could not speak.

I thought of the days of long ago
and remembered the years long past.

At night I mused within my heart.
I pondered and my spirit questioned.

"Will the Lord reject us forever?
Will he show us his favor no more?

Has his love vanished forever?
Has his promise come to an end?

Does God forget his mercy
or in anger withhold his compassion?"

I said: "This is what causes my grief;
that the way of the Most High has changed."

I remember the deeds of the Lord,
I remember your wonders of old,

I muse on all your works
and ponder your mighty deeds.

Your ways, O God, are holy.
What god is as great as our God?

You are the God who works wonders.
You showed your power among the peoples.

Your strong arm redeemed your people,
the sons of Jacob and Joseph.

The waters saw you, O God,

the waters saw you and trembled;
the depths were moved with terror.

The clouds poured down rain,
the skies sent forth their voice;
your arrows flashed to and fro.

Your thunder rolled round the sky,
your flashes lighted up the world.

The earth was moved and trembled
when your way led through the sea,

your path through the mighty waters
and no one saw your footprints.

You guided your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Psalm 90

The one who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
abides in the shadow of the God of heaven.

He says to the Lord: "You are my Protector, my Refuge,
and my God in whom I trust."

It is he who will free you from the snare of the fowler
who seeks to destroy you.

He will conceal you with his pinions
and under his wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,

Nor the plague that prowls in the darkness
nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand fall at your right,

You, it will never approach;
his faithfulness is buckler and shield.

Your eyes have only to look
to see how the wicked are repaid,

You who have said: "Lord, my refuge!"
and have made the Most High your dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell.

For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him;
protect him for he knows my name.

When he calls I shall answer: "I am with you,"
I will save him in distress and give him glory.

With length of days I will content him;
I shall let him see my saving power.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

And then, three times with a bow each time:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God!

Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Tone 4. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.